

**REMARKS**

Allowance of Claims 1-6 is noted and appreciated.

Claims 7, 8 and 16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Welch (6,394,729) or Welch in view of Kistner.

It is respectfully submitted that Welch (6,394,729) is not available as prior art since it was issued to Welch on May 25, 2002 which is over a year after the filing of the Welch invention disclosed and claimed in the instant application.

Since the claims that were rejected depend primarily on Welch '729 being available as a reference, it is submitted that Claims 7, 8 and 16 in their original form are allowable.

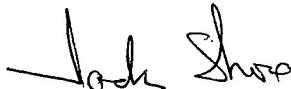
Claims 9-15 and 17-20 that were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim are being retained in their original form since, as discussed above, it is submitted that the base claims are no longer subject to rejection.

Claims 21-31, that according to the Examiner were directed to a separate invention, have been withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present Claims 21-31 in a divisional application.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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